

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re Application of:)
Timothy M. JOHNS et al.))
Application Serial No.: 10/781,629) Group Art Unit: 3611
Filed: February 20, 2004) Examiner: Yeagley, Daniel S.
For: LIFTING SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR USE WITH A) Confirmation No.: 4131)

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HITCH MECHANISM

Sir:

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination, and fulfills the requirements for a submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 5, 2006, the period for reply to which has been extended through January 5, 2007, by a Petition for Extension of Time of three-months filed concurrently herewith and with the requisite fee payment, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

<u>Amendments to the Claims</u> begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 20 of this paper.